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**VALBUENA RE-ELECTED SECRETARY OF NATIONAL INDIAN GAMING  
ASSOCIATION IS UNPRECEDENTED 7<sup>TH</sup> TERM**



**San Manuel Vice Chairwoman Lynn Valbuena**

**April 17, 2009 - Phoenix, Arizona** – Lynn Valbuena was sworn in for an unprecedented seventh term as secretary of the National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA) at the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Wendell Chino Awards Banquet on Wednesday evening.

Valbuena, Vice Chairwoman of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians in Highland, Calif., was nominated by the general NIGA member Indian tribes during a membership

meeting on April 14. Because she ran unopposed for the position, Lynn was elected by acclamation. She began a new two-year term immediately upon being sworn in.

“Thank you for the confidence you expressed by your election to the Office of Secretary for the National Indian Gaming Association,” Valbuena said to the NIGA membership when the election results were announced. “I am honored and humbled by your confidence in my service to Indian country and vow to continue the work that you have elected me to do.”

In addition to her duties as an elected San Manuel officer and NIGA secretary, Valbuena serves as Chairwoman of the Tribal Alliance of Sovereign Indian Nations (TASIN), a regional coalition of 12 Indian tribes from throughout the southern California region. She is in her 14<sup>th</sup> year as TASIN Chairwoman.

Ernie Stevens, Jr., from the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, was also elected Chairman by acclamation to a fifth term.

The election makes Valbuena the longest serving officer of the national association, which includes 184 Indian tribes throughout the United States. The 18<sup>th</sup> annual membership meeting and tradeshow in Phoenix concludes on Thursday.

#### **ABOUT THE SAN MANUEL BAND OF SERRANO MISSION INDIANS**

The San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians is a federally recognized American Indian tribe located near the city of Highland, Calif. The Serrano Indians are the indigenous people of the San Bernardino highlands, passes, valleys and mountains who share a common language and culture. The San Manuel reservation was established in 1891 and recognized as sovereign nation with the right of self-government. Despite challenges and hardships, the San Manuel tribal community has continued to progressively maintain and enhance its unique form of governance - focusing all efforts on providing a better quality of life for its citizens. Through economic diversification, both on and off the reservation, the tribe has been forward thinking in its efforts to build infrastructure, maintain civil services and promote social, economic, educational and cultural development. Today, the San Manuel tribal government has created essential governmental units including the departments of fire, public safety, education and environment and continues to pursue opportunities for future generations.

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